

HOUSE RESOLUTION 67

By Miller L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Myrtice B. Askew
of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Mrs. Myrtice B. Askew; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Askew was a distinguished and prominent citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to her family, community and career; and

WHEREAS, she was born in Courtland, Mississippi on January 22, 1925, the daughter of the late Mrs. Lottie B. (Charlotte) Hentz and Mr. John Benson; and

WHEREAS, she became a member of Johnson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Courtland, Mississippi as a child, where she was a choir member; and

WHEREAS, she moved to Memphis, Tennessee in the 1950s and married the late Fred Lee Askew and to this union were born four children, Freddie Laverne, Semmie Lee, Connie Renee, and Maurice Chavlier; and

WHEREAS, upon her move to Memphis, she united with Warner Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where she was a very active member, serving on the Usher Board, the Stewardess Board and the Ladies Church Aid Club; and

WHEREAS, Myrtice's love for service and community spread much farther than the church, she was President of the Locke Elementary School PTA, where one of her many accomplishments included getting a permanent school crossing guard for the intersection of St. Paul Avenue and Orleans. She served on the Chapter One Advisory Committee and worked on the PTAs of Porter Junior High, Vance Junior High, and Booker T. Washington High School; and

WHEREAS, she also worked closely with the Memphis Board of Education and Governor Lamar Alexander on education reform; and

WHEREAS, as vice-president of the Cleaborn Homes Resident Association, she worked diligently and rose to the position of president; she successfully led the effort to get the Vance Library rebuilt and provided a place in the Cleaborn Community Center for an extension library; and

WHEREAS, she established a distribution system for the County Commodities Program in public housing and was one of the originators of the city's summer lunch program; and

WHEREAS, by working with public housing, Myrtice established the Community Policing program known as Operation Involvement, located in the Cleaborn Homes; and

WHEREAS, she was one of the founding members of Tennessee's first statewide resident association; and

WHEREAS, she was also one of the original members of the MHA Citywide Resident Council and served as vice-president under the Reverend James Robinson and accepted the office of president upon his resignation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Askew was the first appointed tenant leader on the Troubled Housing Authority Workout Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Askew worked in various political campaigns including the very first campaign of Congressman Harold Ford, Sr.; she was a friend and advisor to many elected officials and for many years worked for the Shelby County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, she was a valued member of the Shelby County Democrats and numerous other organizations; and

WHEREAS, mourning her death, yet rejoicing in her purposeful life are her daughters, Lottie Bond, Freddie Askew and Connie Askew; her two sons, Semmie Askew (Carlton Askew) and Maurice Askew; twenty grandchildren, Monica, Steven, Tommie, Debra, Cedric, Tina, Angela, Mary Emily, Eric, Darrel, John B., Dan, Alice, Chris, James, Michael, Diana, Christopher, Cynthia and Cassandra; and a host of great-grandchildren and other loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Mrs. Askew leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Mrs. Myrtice B. Askew, remembering with admiration her exemplary character and her many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Myrtice B. Askew.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.